REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Applicant submits that Rochberger does not disclose the features of "intercepting traffic flowing in the network" or "extracting content identify information and associated destination location information from the traffic flow". Nor is Rochberger even concerned with "a method of indexing content in an IP based network" (emphasis added).

Rochberger is concerned with a network where two or more servers provide the same application services to be shared among nodes and applications on the network (column 7, lines 25 to 30). The servers periodically send "an indication containing a hop count to its neighbours" (column 7, lines 50 to 53). Nodes at network to network interface supports can then store the hop count in a database if the hop count is the smallest received (column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 2). In this way the nodes at network to network interfaces can keep track of the closest source of a service which is to be shared among the network.

Applicant submits that the skilled person on reading Rochberger would learn that it is advantageous to send messages out from a point where a service is available to indicate the number of hops between a node and the server to the node. In contrast, the present invention works by intercepting data traffic, such as a website page, at a node flowing in the network and extracting content identity information, for example a URL, and associated destination location information, the node to which the data traffic is being sent, from the data traffic flow itself. The destination location does not send any messages to other nodes in order to specify the distance between the destination location and the node.

The claims have been amended to specify that the traffic flow is a "data traffic flow" in order to clarify this feature.

Applicant therefore submits that one skilled in the art would not consider carrying out the steps as claimed in Claim 1, and Claim 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of Rochberger.

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Claim 8 recites the feature of "an identity extractor operable to analyse data received at the data input and to extract content identify information from the data" and "a location extractor operable to analyse data received at the data input and to extract location information from the data". Applicant therefore submits that for at least the reasons given above, that Claim 8 is not anticipated nor obvious in view of Rochberger.
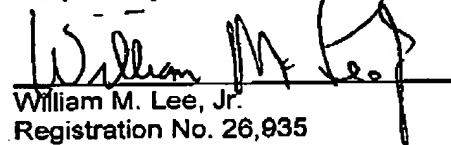
Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Claim 13 recites the features of "intercepting data traffic flowing in the network" and "extracting content identity information and associated destination location information from the data traffic flow". Applicant therefore submits for at least the reasons given above that Claim 13 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Rochberger.

Finally, Applicant submits that Claims 2 to 6 are submitted to be patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

A typographical error in the specification has been corrected. In view of the above, further and favorable reconsideration is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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